

Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-13 NIC-01 SAJ-01 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

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R 091010 Z JUN 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3182

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 1696

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG UR

SUBJECT: NEW PHASE IN EGYPTIAN/ SOVIET RELATIONS

REF: MOSCOW 4800 (NOTAL)

1. JUNE 9 AKHBAR CARRIES SEVERAL ITEMS REFLECTING DIRECTLY ON SOVIET/ EGYPTIAN RELATIONS. FIRST IS NOTE (CARRIED BY OTHER PAPERS) THAT SOVIET AMBASSADOR VINOGRADOV SAW SADAT JUNE 8, FOR THE SECOND TIME IN THREE DAYS. SECOND IS EXCLUSIVE ARTICLE FROM AKHBAR CORRESPONDENT IN MOSCOW MOHAMMAD GUINDI STATING THAT ACCORDING TO MOSCOW DIPLO- MATIC CIRCLES, PODGORNYY MAY VISIT EGYPT SHORTLY. GUINDI' S ARICLE ADDS THAT " DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES CONNECT
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THIS VISIT WITH THE COMING MEETING BETWEEN BRESHNEV AND NIXON, IN THAT IT IS AN EXPLORATORY TRIP CONCERNING WHAT MAY BE RAISED ABOUT THE ME AREA".

2. THIRD ITEM IS FRONT- PAGE ARTICLE, ALSO BY MOHAMED GUINDI, PUBLISHING WHAT IS REPORTEDLY OFFICIAL SOVIET REPLY TO QUESTIONS RAISED BY IHSAN ABDEL QUDDUS IN ARTICLE PUBLISHED LAST WEEK ABOUT MEANING OF POLICY OF MILITARY RELAXATION IN ME, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF US ARMING OF ISRAEL. GUINDI' S ARTICLE, ATTRIBUTED TO " RESPONSIBLE SOVIET SOURCE", MAKES FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. AS LONG AS THERE IS NO PEACE IN ME, AND AS LONG AS ISRAELIS OCCUPY ARAB LAND AND LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS ARE NOT SECURED, THERE CAN BE NO TALK ABOUT MILITARY RELAXATION IN THE ME.

B. PROOF OF THIS IS THAT SOVIET UNION HAS NOT REACHED AGREEMENT WITH NIXON UPON ANY MILITARY RELAXATION IN FACE OF ISRAELI AGGRESSION, AND USSR HAS CONTINUED TO SUPPLY MILITARY SUPPORT TO EGYPT FOLLOWING NIXON/ BRESHNEV SUMMIT LAST YEAR.

C. IF PEACE IS TO BE SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION BETWEEN BRESHNEV AND NIXON AT COMING MEETING, THE ME ISSUE POSES GREATEST DANGER TO PEACE. SOVIET UNION WISHES TO ELIMINATE CAUSES OF TENSION BUT ONLY IF THAT OCCURS ON JUST BASIS. IN ME PEACE CANNOT LAST WITHOUT ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL AND ACHIEVEMENT OF PALESTINIAN' S RIGHTS. BRESHNEV WILL DEFEND SOVIET INTERESTS, WHICH COINCIDE WITH ARAB INTERESTS IN ME. ARAB DEFEAT IS SOVIET DEFEAT AND VICE- VERSA; AND BRESHNEV HAS CONTINUED TO EMPHASIZE SOVIET SUPPORT FOR ARABS.

D. SOVIETS DO NOT CONSIDER POLITICAL SOLUTION TO ME PROBLEM TO BE THE ONLY ONE, BUT THE BEST. NEVERTHELESS, IN VIEW OF ISRAEL' S CONTINUED AGGRESSION, " THE ARABS HAVE EVERY RIGHT TO USE ALL MEANS TO LIBERATE THEIR LAND."

E. REGARDING ALLEGATIONS THAT SOVIET INTEREST IN TRADE WILL CAUSE USSR TO MAKE CONCESSIONS IN ME, DETENTE MERELY MAKE MY ISSUE MORE URGENT. " A JUST PEACE IN THE ME IS IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH ARABS AND SOVIETS".

F. MILITARY RELAXATION IN ME CAN ONLY COME ABOUT AFTER ACHIEVEMENT OF PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT, WHICH CAN ONLY BE REACHED THROUGH ISRAEL'S WITHDRAWAL AND ACHIEVEMENT OF
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RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS.

G. SOVIET POLICY OF MILITARY RELAXATION IS WORLD- WIDE; BUT TALK OF DISARMAMENT OR ARMS LIMITATION DOES NOT APPLY TO NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS FIGHTING IMPERIALISM. POLICY OF PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE DID NOT STOP SOVIETS FROM SUPPORTING VIETNAM, NOR WILL IT STOP THEIR SUPPORT FOR ARABS POLITICALLY AND MILITARILY BEFORE AND AFTER NIXON' S

VISIT TO MOSCOW.

3. COMMENT: AKHBAR ARTICLE ON POSSIBILITY OF PODGORNYY
VISIT TO CAIRO BRINGS TO MIND REFTEL, WHICH REPORTED
THAT VISIT TO EGYPT BY HIGH- LEVEL SOVIET OFFICIAL MIGHT
TAKE PLACE IN JUNE IN CONNECTION WITH OFFICIAL OPENING
OF KELWAN PROJECT AND, POSSIBLY, EN ROUTE TO OR FROM
OPENING OF EUPHRATES DAM. ASU FIRST SECRETARY HAFEZ
GHANEM ACKNOWLEDGED TO ME JUNE 9 THAT CPSU DELEGATION
WOULD BE VISITING HIM SHORTLY, AND THAT VISIT BY SOVIET
GOVERNMENT DELEGATION MIGHT ALSO OCCUR. OTHER THAN THIS,
HOWEVER, WE HAVE NO FURTHER DETAILS.
GREENE

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